Education Is Key for Successful Transformation

As Mr. Zwitch discusses, the Department of Defense (DoD) continues to transform to ensure our enduring success. In addition to finding improved ways of doing things, transformation requires educating the members of the DoD about those improvements. CROSSTALK's parent organization, the Software Technology Support Center, was established for just this purpose. As part of our endeavor to educate software practitioners on methods to better acquire and develop software, the Systems and Software Technology Conference (SSTC) and CROSSTALK were established. Once a year, SSTC and CROSSTALK join forces to share improvements in person and in print. All the articles in this month's issue will be discussed in presentations at SSTC 2006.

The articles in this month's issue include an update to the spiral model that addresses acquiring systems of systems; a discussion on the special cost challenges that systems of systems create; one approach for better securing the Global Information Grid; examples for using Performance-Based Earned Value; and tips to help large projects better use agile software development methods. I hope you enjoy this month's issue of CROSSTALK, and hope you enjoy the presentations at SSTC.

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